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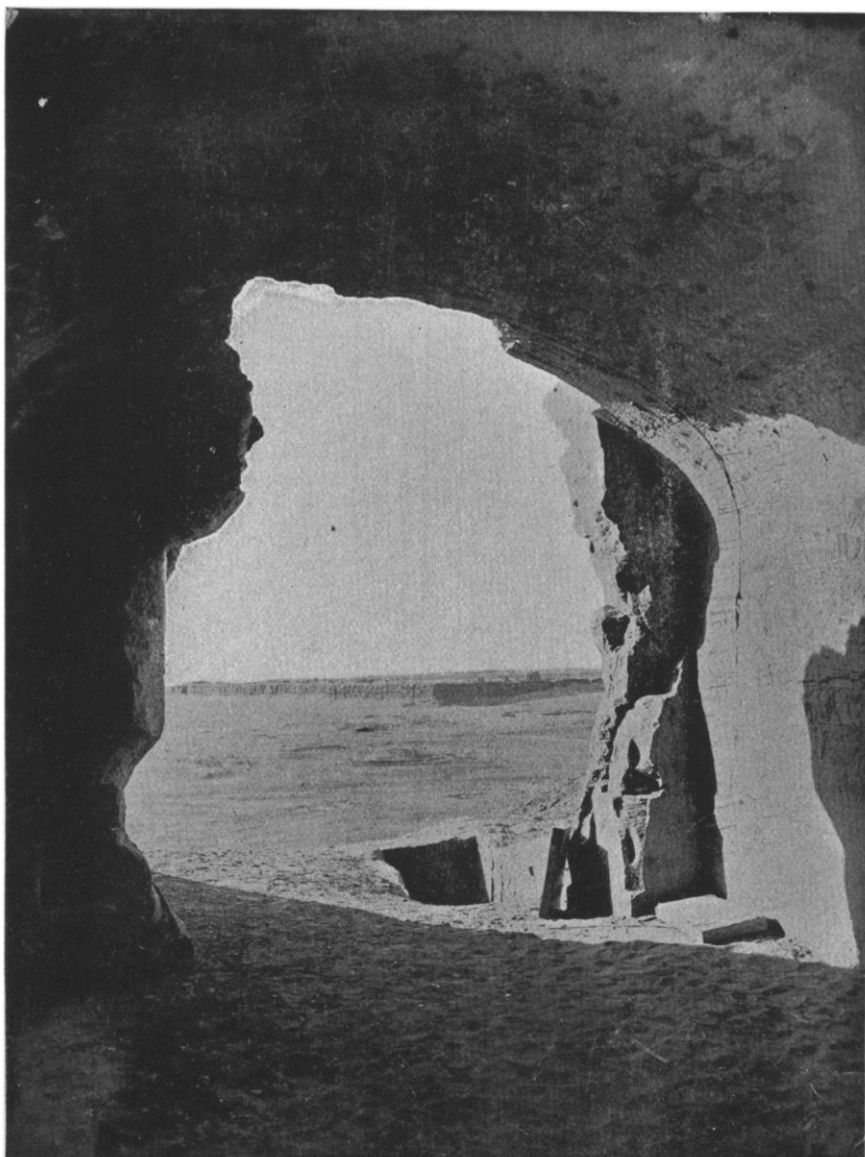
Exploration and Discovery.

EXCAVATIONS OF THE EGYPTIAN RESEARCH ACCOUNT AT EL KAB.

WHILE Mr. Petrie is working at Beni Mazar, Mr. Quibell, of the Research Account, is excavating the ancient city known to the modern natives as El Kab. It is located on the eastern bank of the Nile about fifty miles above Thebes, and long before the rise of the latter city El Kab was in prehistoric times the leading city and capital of the kingdom of Upper Egypt. The patron goddess of the city, Nekhbet, the vulture, was in historic times the protectress of the Pharaohs, and in innumerable temple reliefs she hovers over his head with outstretched wings (see accompanying relief). During the domination of the Hyksos invaders El Kab was a loyal ally of the unhappy Pharaohs and was far enough south to offer them a safe and welcome refuge from the northern oppressors. In their expulsion the city played a prominent part and its noble lords were among the Pharaoh's leading supporters; so much so that they were allowed by the Pharaoh to retain their princely titles, inherited from the older feudal empire, long after all other nobles had been stripped of them. The most important inscriptions pertaining to the overthrow of the Hyksos are found here.

The city of the present day possesses unique interest; it is the only city of remote antiquity the walls of which still stand almost intact. From the cliffs back of the town (see frontispiece) one may look down upon it, stretched out beneath one's feet, and almost see the majestic temple, surrounded by the beautiful villas of the feudal lords, whose soldiery once manned the now silent walls. These walls of sun-baked brick are thirty-eight feet thick, surrounding an enclosure over 2000 feet long and about 1550 feet in width. The buildings once standing within the enclosure have almost entirely disappeared.

The cemetery just to the eastward of the city is the scene of Mr. Quibell's excavations, and such is the great age and important character of the place that great results are to be expected. Our readers will be kept informed from time to time of the progress of the



SCENE FROM THE DOOR OF A ROCK TOMB, LOOKING DOWN UPON THE GREAT
WALLS OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF EL KAB, UPPER EGYPT, WHERE THE
EGYPTIAN RESEARCH ACCOUNT IS NOW EXCAVATING.

excavations, and, as may be seen in the February number of the BIBLICAL WORLD, can, if they choose, substantially assist in bringing many of the antiquities discovered at El Kab to our own shores.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.



RELIEF FROM A GRANITE PILLAR AT KARNAK SHOWING DHUTMOSE III (XVIIIth DYNASTY) ON THE LEFT, EMBRACED BY AMON; OVER THE KING'S HEAD IS THE VULTURE-GODDESS WITH WINGS OUTSTRETCHED IN PROTECTION.